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Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2006 1:03 PM  
To: Rick Martin; & al.  
Subject: Update from Spain

Hola Family, Friends and Rotary Members!

I just wanted to let you all know how things are going here in Spain.

I've now been here for a month, and I couldn't be happier! I have a friend from Spain who goes to the University here, she's studying Dentistry, and her and her family have been wonderful! School is great, I just finished my first month in an advanced level, and actually took another placement test the first of the month to be placed in a different level for this next month of classes. I'm now in the highest level, it's a little challenging because I have to be constantly focused because it moves faster than the other levels, naturally. But it's so much better than being in a lower level like I was before. I have 5 hours of classes each day- the first 2 hours are Spanish grammar, the next hour is conversation, the fourth is Spanish literature and the fifth hour is Spanish art history. All of the professors are very nice and engaging, and the students are all very nice. There's about 10-15 students in each of my classes and they're from all over the world.

Most are from the US and Japan, then there are others from Germany, Switzerland, Taiwan, Canada, Italy, and I'm sure there are more I just haven't had a chance to meet them yet.

The school has various excursions it offers for students to places like Toledo, Segovia, Madrid, etc. I got the chance to go to Toledo and on another excursion to a town called Ávila and to the Escorial which is a gorgeous monastery/garden/get-a-way for the king outside of Madrid. Both places were wonderful, it's so cool to see the history first hand after having learned about it in class for years, seeing it first hand is amazing! I've also visited places like Ciudad Rodrigo and Oveido in Asturias. My next stop will be somewhere in the south like Sevilla or Granada- I've heard the south has a very different culture than the north so I'm excited to see it.

A couple weeks ago I gave my first presentation at the Rotary Club. It went very well; I just introduced myself and told them what I was here for, what I was studying and a little bit about my life and family in the US. There are 19 members at this club and everyone was very welcoming!

All in all I'm having a great experience here. The people are all very hospitable, the food is amazing and the culture is one of a kind. I'm only speaking in Spanish so already my speaking has improved tremendously; I know at the end of my stay here my Spanish will be 1,000 times better!

If you'd like to see my pictures they are online now. I'm sorry it took awhile, but it takes a long time to upload the pictures onto the web and my converter for my computer isn't very good, so it's difficult to get it to work for long enough to upload the pictures before the battery dies. Anyways, the website is <http://terahaskin.myphotoalbum.com>. I'll be updating it regularly with more pictures. Take care everyone!

Besitos,  
Tera

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